

Dwelling, 13942 River Road
CH-618
Wicomico Beach
Private

Circa 1928

The dwelling at 13942 River Road, now demolished, was located on a .64 acre lot overlooking the Wicomico River. This modest 1 ½ story frame dwelling is an example of the vernacular bungalow/craftsmen style cottages that sprung up in Charles County during the 1920's and 30's. Common characteristics found on this example include a low-pitched gabled roof, exposed rafters, shed dormer, and a porch enclosed under the main roof.

In 1924, Michael Shea parceled off some of his existing acreage to sell .64 acres to George L. and Nellie V. Clubb who built a modest seasonal dwelling in the new community of Wicomico Beach. Its simplistic design, water orientation, and diminutive size is a good example of the types of small, rustic resort cottages constructed in and around Cobb Island and other emerging resort areas in Charles County during the early part of the twentieth century.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-618

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dwelling, 13942 River Road
other

2. Location

street and number 13942 River Road not for publication
city, town Wicomico Beach vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Susanne L. Marshall
street and number 3805 Williams Lane telephone
city, town Chevy Chase state MD zip code 20815

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: Map 87, P. 2
city, town LaPlata liber 2660 folio 430

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			1

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-618

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The dwelling at 13942 River Road is scheduled to be demolished. Located on a .64 acre lot on the Wicomico River to the east and River Road to the west, this 1 1/2 story frame dwelling is an example of a modest vernacular bungalow/craftsmen style. Common characteristics found on this example include a low-pitched gabled roof, exposed rafters, shed dormer, and a porch enclosed under the main roof.

Built circa 1928 the building rests on top of a small bluff overlooking the Wicomico River. Included on the site are a dock, scattered mature trees and foundation plantings around the dwelling. A non-contributing circa 1975 frame shed stands near the roadside.

The dwelling rests on a poured concrete pier foundation and is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and is pierced with a rear exterior brick chimney. The three bay porch is supported with square wooden posts and is currently screened. Later additions include a one story shed attached to the south elevation and the cross gable wing found on the east elevation. This wing currently serves as the entrance from the roadside.

The façade faces the riverside and includes a centered single wood panel and light door flanked by two sash double-hung windows with 2/2 lights and square-edged wood surrounds. The shed dormer has three later wood sash double-hung windows with 1/1 lights.

Moving clockwise, the south elevation includes four sash double-hung wood 2/2 light windows with square-edged wood surrounds. The attic story has one window of the same composition.

The west elevation has two sash double-hung windows with 2/2 lights and square-edged wood surrounds, as well as a single 6/6 light double-hung wood sash window, all with molded wood surrounds.

The north elevation includes on the first floor three sash double-hung wood windows with 2/2 lights, and on the second floor one window of the same composition. All have square-edged wood surrounds.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-618

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	Circa 1928	Architect	Unknown
Construction dates	Circa 1928	Builder	Unknown

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The dwelling at 13942 River Road, now demolished, held significance in the areas of architecture, transportation and community planning. Located at the tip of a long peninsula between the Potomac and Wicomico Rivers, development in this region owes much to changing patterns in technology, transportation and leisure that impacted the Charles County landscape during the first half of the twentieth century.

Before the turn of the twentieth century the area which came to be known as Wicomico Beach was predominantly agricultural and largely accessible only by water. In 1918, prominent Maryland attorney and "gentleman farmer" Robert Crain of nearby Mount Victoria (CH-35) purchased Cobb Island with the intent to develop a resort community. Streets and lots were laid out by Edmund P. Russell, a Washington Civil Engineer and sold by Baltimore land agents, F.B. Bannister & Company.

Crain, an accomplished lobbyist, knew that transportation was vital to the region's growth and during the early 1920's successfully advocated a major new road project in Charles County. He is generally credited with the construction of the Southern Maryland Truckline which was later renamed Crain Highway in his honor. Completed in 1927 and stretching from Waldorf to Rock Point, this concrete roadway connected the isolated peninsula between the Potomac and Wicomico rivers to the outside world.

Large landowners holding waterfront property were eager to follow Crain's example. Many parceled off waterfront lots that were not especially well suited for agriculture but were attractive to the growing middle class as resort getaways. Wicomico Beach, Cobb Island, Woodland Point and Swann Point are examples of small maritime communities in the immediate region that emerged during the early part of the twentieth century.

In 1924, Michael Shea parceled off some of his existing acreage to sell .64 acres to George L. and Nellie V. Clubb who built a modest seasonal dwelling in the new community of Wicomico Beach. In it's simplistic design, water orientation, and diminutive size it is a good example of the types of small rustic resort cottages constructed in and around Cobb Island and other emerging resort areas during the early part of the twentieth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-618

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .25
Acreage of historical setting .25
Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property at 13942 River Road is associated with Charles County Property Map 87, Grid 1, Parcel 27.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Cathy Currey/Historic Site Surveyor		
organization	Charles County Planning Department	date	10/4/2000
street and number	200 Baltimore Street	telephone	301-396-581
city or town	LaPlata	state MD	zipcode 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-618

Section 8 Page 1

Dwelling, 13942 River Road
name of property
Charles County, MD
county and state

Chain of title:

November 15, 1924	Michael Shea and Maria Shea to George L. and Nellie V. Clubb. Liber 43 Folio 97
August 7, 1940	Nellie V. Clubb, widow to David M. Miles and Clara E. Miles. WMA 72 Folio 581
June 27, 1959	Annie Miles, widow of James A. Miles to Roland M. Jones and Marcia W. Jones, wife. [James and Annie Miles, his wife acquired the property as the brother and only heir of Clara E. Miles. See Liber 100 Folio 514-518] Liber 143 Folio 16
January 19, 1995	Edward L. and Suzanne L. Marshall to Suzanne L. and Edward L. Marshall, revocable living trust. Liber 2056 Folio 125
October 15, 1998	Corrective deed. Property description erroneous in 2056:125; Correct description found in 100:516. Liber 2660 Folio 125

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Section 9 Page 1

Dwelling, 13942 River Road
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Hickling, Lee. An Illustrated Centennial History of Cobb Island.
Ambrell Press, Cobb Island, MD 1989.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., LaPlata, MD. 1958.

RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

9/99

CH-618

13942 RIVER ROAD

CHARLES CO., MD

Tompkinsville vic.

Wicomico
River

dock

slopes down

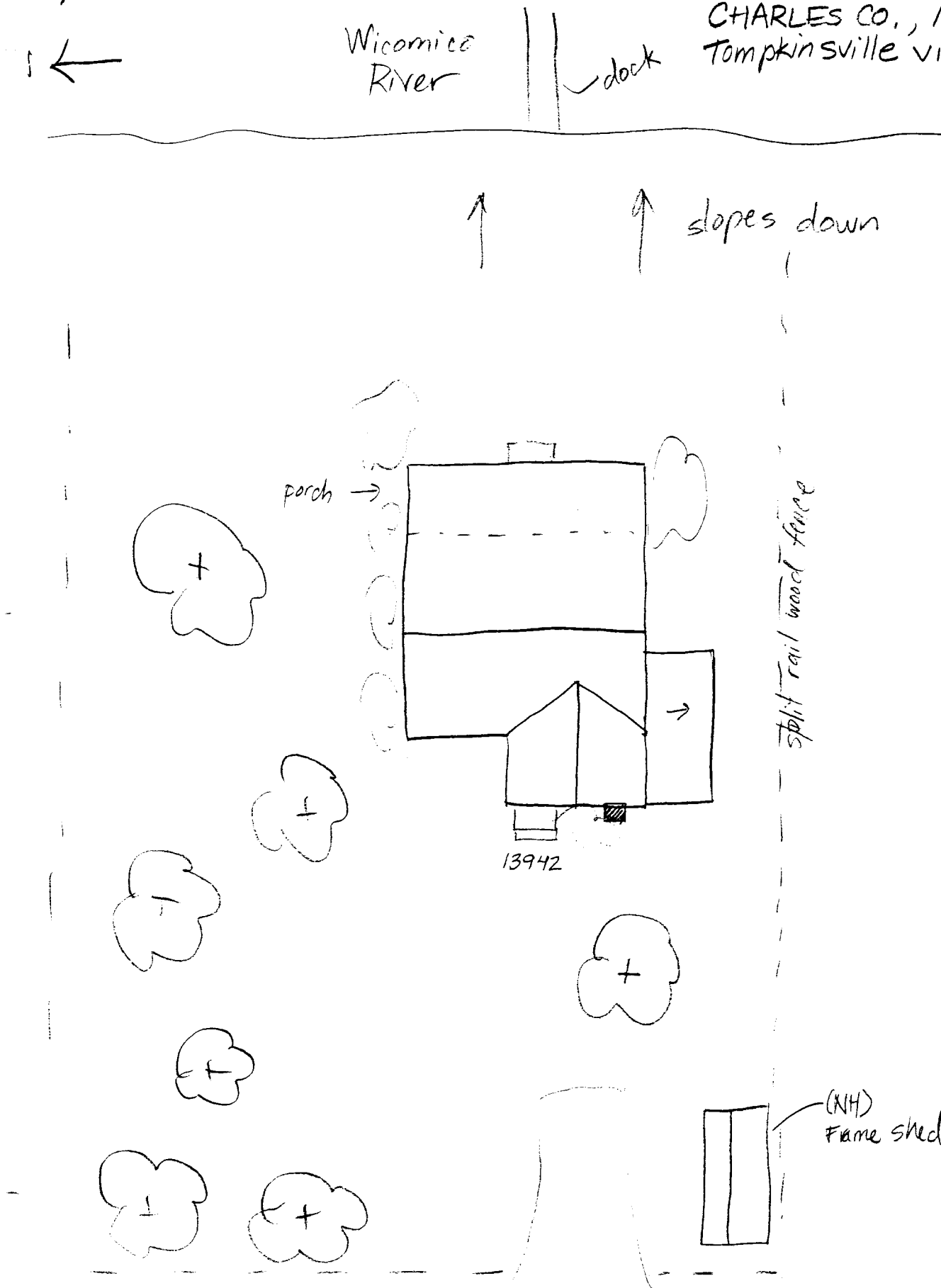
porch

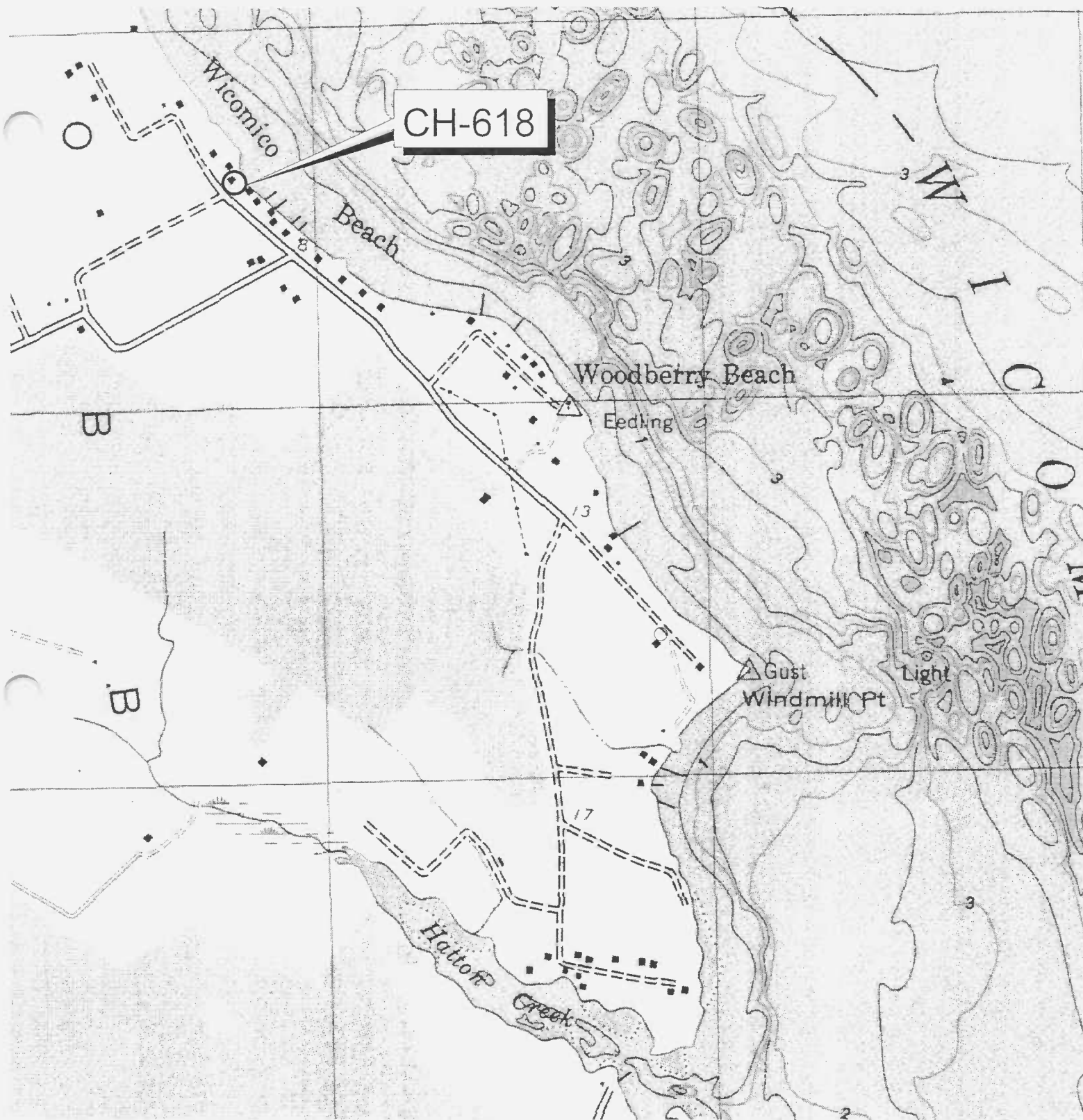
13942

split rail wood fence

(NH)
Frame shed

River Road





Dwelling, 13942 River Road
CH-618
Charles County, MD
Rock Point, MD Quad





CH-618

HOUSE, 13942 RIVER RD.

CHARLES CO., MD

K.G. SMITH

10/99

MARYLAND SHPO

FACADE, LOOKING NW

1 OF 3



CH- 618

HOUSE, 13942 RIVER RD,
CHARLES CO., MD

K.G. SMITH

10/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SE

2 OF 3



CH-618

HOUSE, 13942 RIVER RD.
CHARLES CO., MD

K.G. SMITH

10/99

MARYLAND SHPO

LOOKING SW - SHED

3 OF 3